



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE
CENTRAL-EAST EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE – EFICEEC

Bernhard Wolfslehner

EFICEEC

Towards prosperous forest research in Central-Eastern Europe





Prosperity...

Towards Prosperous Forest Networking in Central-Eastern Europe

Bernhard Wolfbühner | EFICEEC

EFI's Central European Regional Office – EFICEEC, looks back on an intensive year 2010. Following the launch in Vienna in April 2010, and the appointment of the Head of Office in May, it was imperative to become operational as quickly as possible. Committing the 11 core partners and ensuring their in-kind contributions to EFICEEC was first on the agenda. Welcoming among others the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Istanbul as new network, the EFICEEC network had 30 partners in 17 European countries by end of 2010.



Managing such a large network and its pool of competences is complex, and sets high demands on communication. Therefore, focus was given on the development of the EFICEEC website (www.eficeec.efi.int) and the electronic newsletter to be shared within the network. Both secure up-to-date communication and sharing communication on news, open calls or achievements such as the successful end of COST Action E 51 on Integrating Innovation and Development Policies for the Forest Sector.

A network cannot flourish without personal contact. The University of Forestry in Sofia hosted 40 participants to discuss EFICEEC strategy and organisation, and to present their current work and contribution to EFICEEC. It was also discussed how to handle the expertise in coppice and mountain forests, which are the two key strategic assets of EFICEEC.

In line with EFI's foresights activities, an informal exercise was done anticipating future developments in the forest sector in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region until 2030. The CEE region is particularly interesting in this respect because we see a heterogeneous

state of the transition processes in CEE countries (e.g. the status of land restitution) joint by recent EU accessions. New policy making processes and new decision-making habits in forest management will be needed in order to clarify forest ownership issues (both private and state forests), satisfy novel societal demands on forests, and to strengthen rural development and the better use of natural resources (e.g. bioenergy).

The EFICEEC foresights activity is designed to raise awareness for relevant forest-related topics in the CEE region and to proactively advocate for CEE topics in Europe. It will be followed up at the EFICEEC annual meeting in Brno in May 2011.

EFICEEC core partners

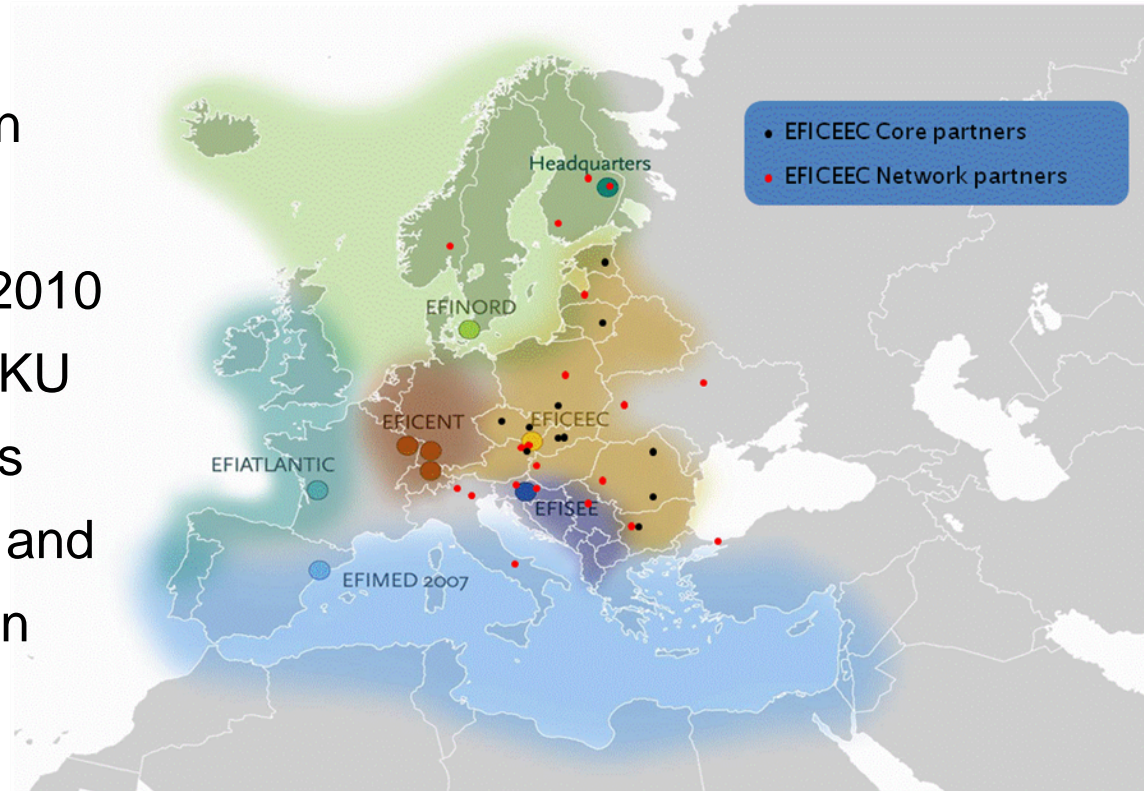
- BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria (hosting institution)
- University of Forestry, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
- Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno, Czech Republic
- Research Institute of Life Sciences, Tams, Slovenia
- Lithuanian Forest Institute, Kaunas, Lithuania
- Forest Research Institute, Krakow, Poland
- University Ștefan cel Mare, Suceava, Romania
- Forest Research and Management Institute, Viharski, Romania
- National Forest Centre, Zvolen, Slovakia
- Technical University, Zvolen, Slovakia

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EFI Regional Office for Central-Eastern European Countries (EFICEEC)

- following EFI decentralisation strategy into the regions
- EFICEEC launched in April 2010
- Head Office in Vienna at BOKU
- 33 partners from 18 countries
- aims at stimulating research and collaboration in the CEE region



EFICEEC Core Partners



EFICEEC Funding



StadT Wien



lebensministerium.at



EFICEEC rationale

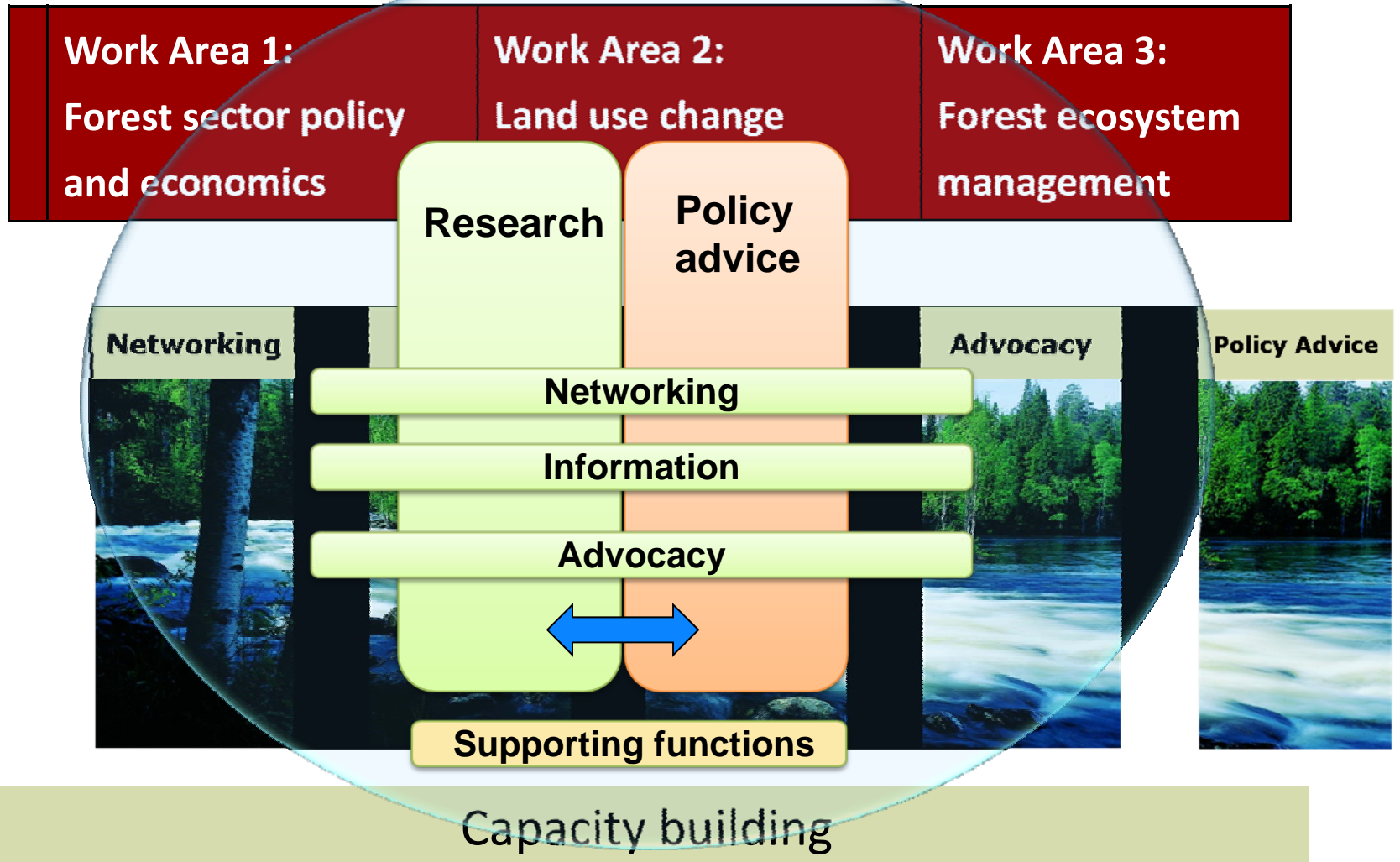


- support and strengthen networking of forest research institutions and EFI in the CEE region
- address forest-related issues relevant to the CEE region after the transition phase
- foster science-policy and science-practice transfers
- improve regional collaboration, capacity building and information exchange





EFICEEC and EFI Strategy 2025





EFICEEC – a Hub for Integrated Research

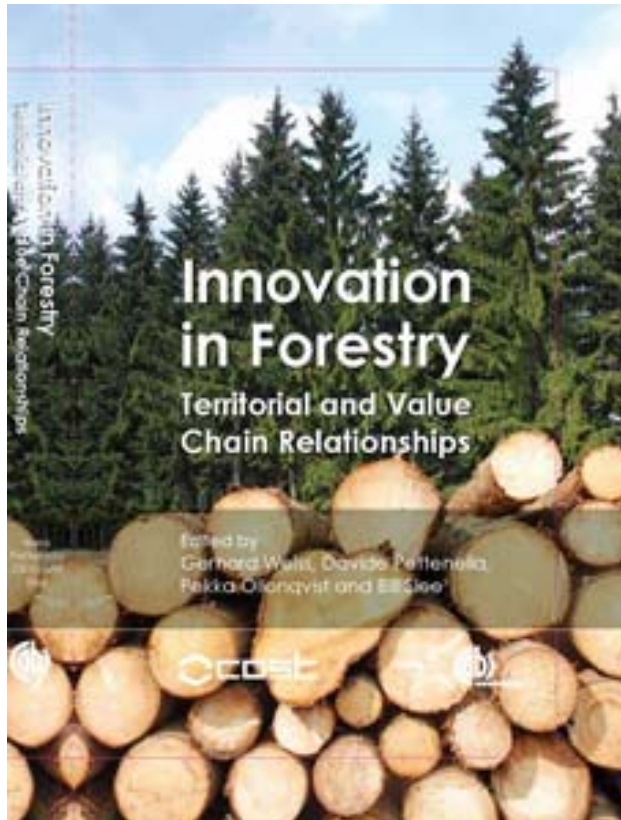
Work Area 1: Forest sector policy and economics	Work Area 2: Land use change	Work Area 3: Forest ecosystem management
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SOCIETY	LANDSCAPE	ECOSYSTEM
stakeholder interests	watersheds	regeneration
law enforcement	ecotones	adaptation
ecosystem services & values	cross-sectoral impacts	bio-energy
beneficiaries & financing	carbon balances	climate change
ownership & properties		tree species
		biodiversity
		multi-functionality
INTEGRATED FOREST RESEARCH		





Innovation Research



- Backing up on the EFI PC INNOFORCE
- forest industry and forest products and services market development
- institutional innovation, valuation and market-building for soft forest values and ecosystem services
- COST E 51 (chaired by G.Weiss)





Forest ownership

- economic theories of privatization
- effects of privatization on sustainable forest management
- novel strategies for administration, technical support, organisation and coordination, monitoring and control for both state forests and private forests owners

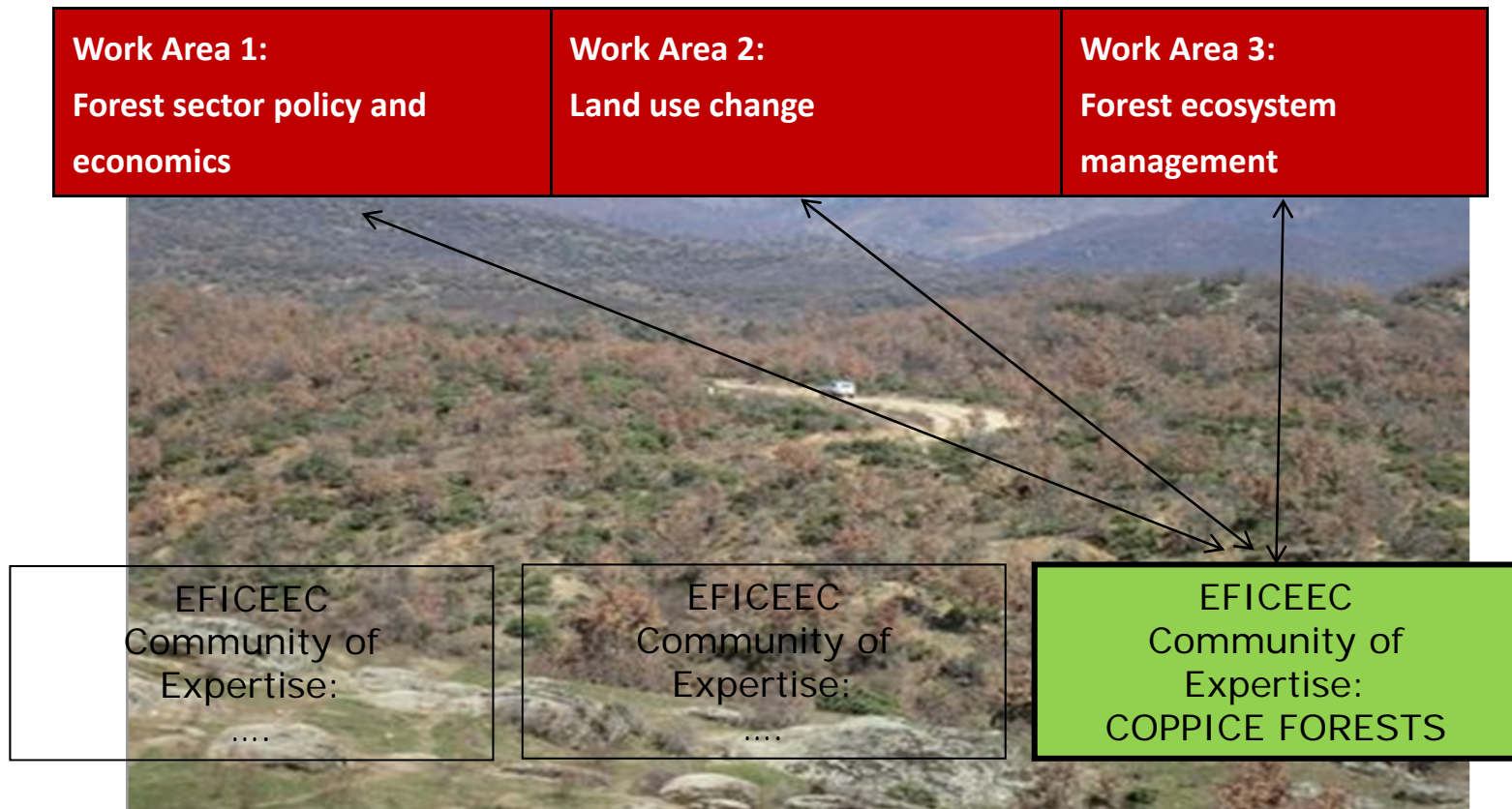


fao.org



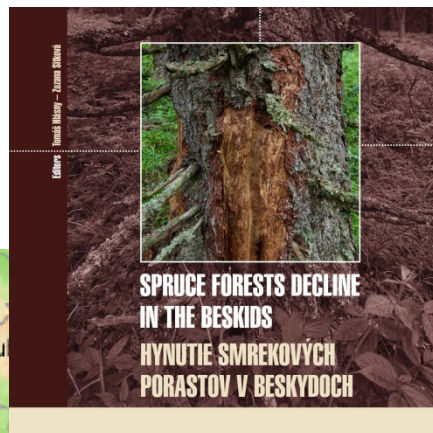


Coppice forests – EFICEEC community of expertise





Mountain Forests



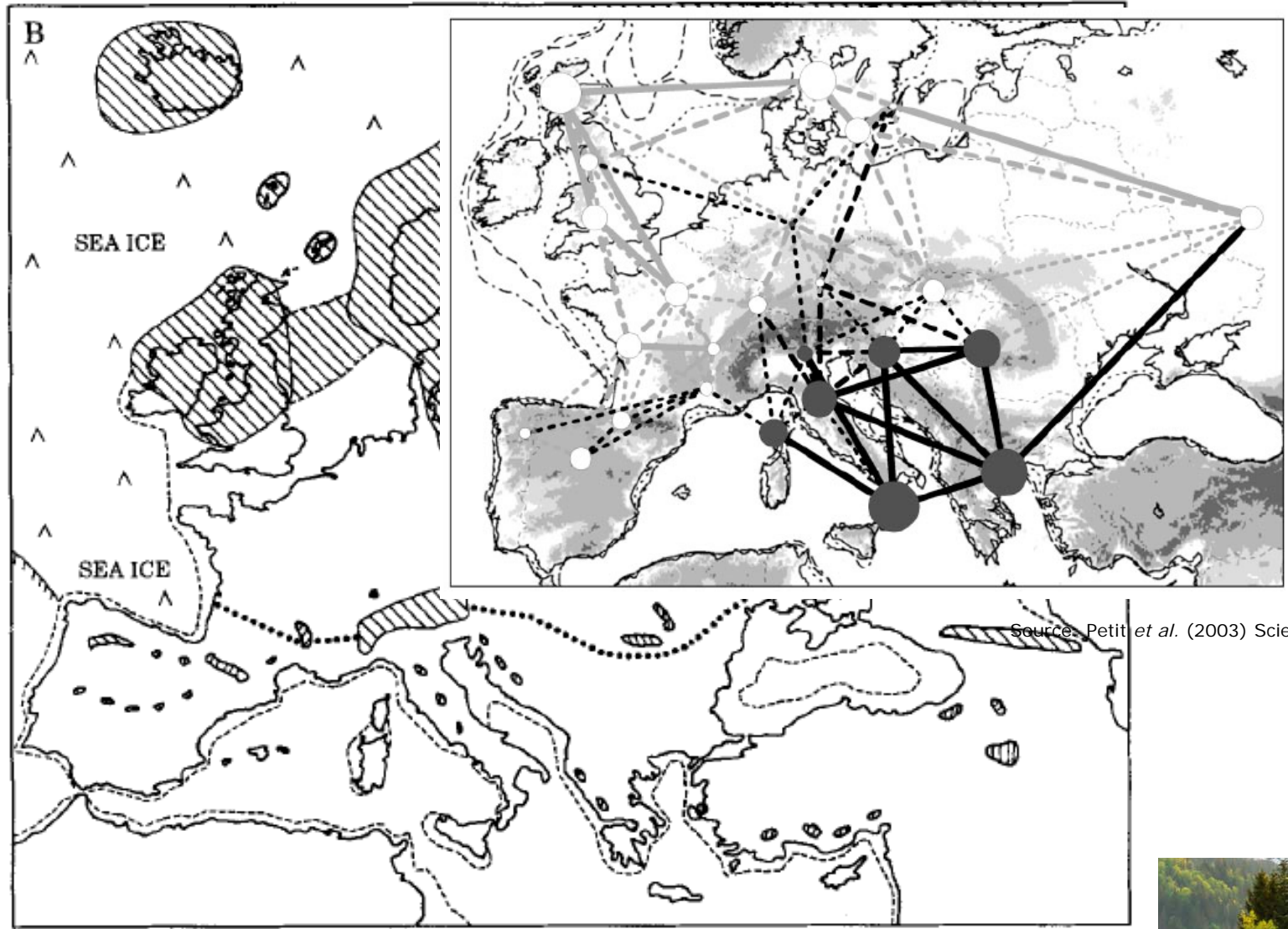
- major European mountain ranges in CEE
- connect to other initiatives in mountain (forest) research
- install an EFICEEC community of expertise
- FP7-KBBE proposal under evaluation: ARANGE





The role of biodiversity in Eastern Europe

Multispecies genetic divergence of each of 25 forests studied



Source: Petit et al. (2003) Science





EU Strategy for the Danube region

- Endorsed 2011
- Action Plan set up
- Maintain biodiversity & landscapes
- Develop a knowledge society





Forest Value Chains in CEE

Forest resources

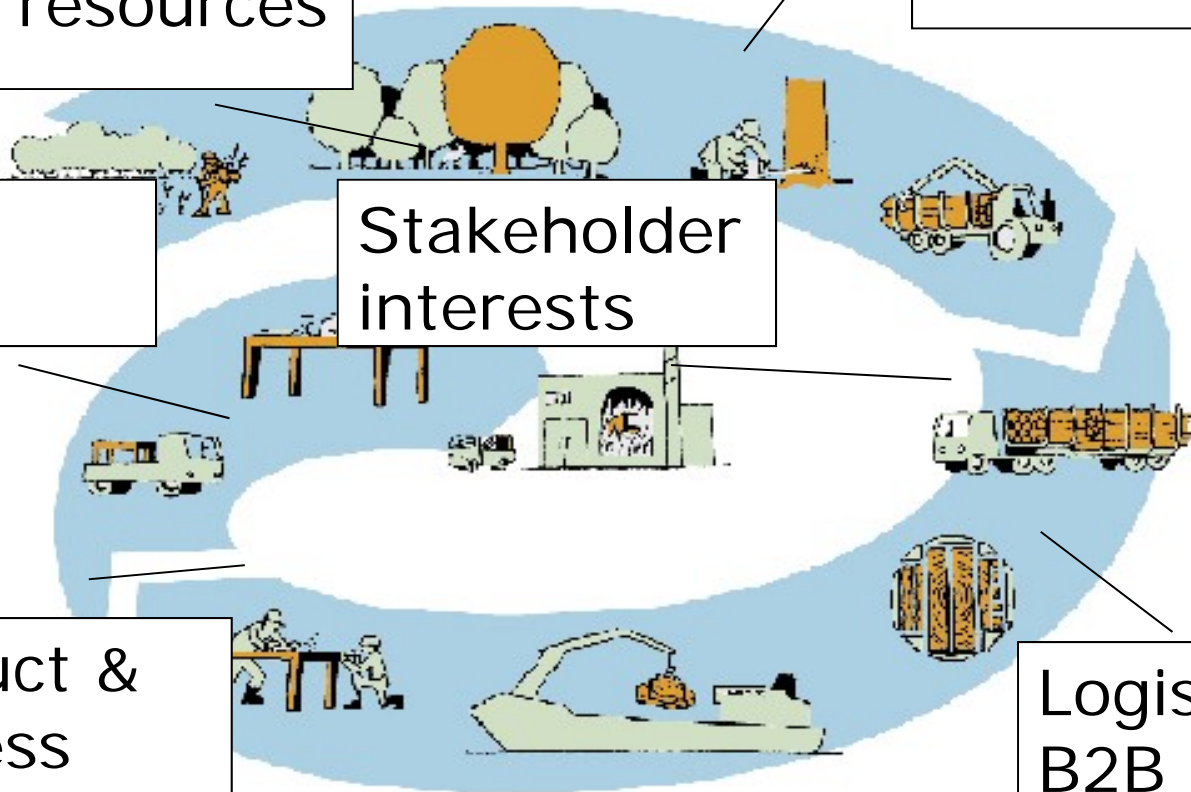
Wood mobilisation

Consumer attitudes

Stakeholder interests

Product & process innovation

Logistics, B2B relations





So: sufficient challenges!





First pieces...





Ongoing projects

- **Climate change effects on green space of the city of Vienna** (City of Vienna, 2009-2013)
- **Innovation and sustainability of forestry in Central-Eastern Europe: challenges and perspectives (SUSICEE)** (Federal Austrian Ministry of Science and Research, 2009-2010),
Partners: BOKU, NFC Zvolen, FF Univ. Belgrade, CULS Prague, USV Suceava, EMU Tartu, University of Sofia
- **Sustainable, competitive processing and end-use concepts for forest-based industries** (WoodWisdomNet, Austrian National Funding FFG, 2010-2013)





Ongoing projects

- **New market based instruments for biodiversity conservation in European beech forests** (Biodiversa ERA-NET, Austrian National Fund /FWF, 2010-2013)
- **Sustainable forest management providing renewable energy, sustainable construction and bio-based products (Rok-FOR)** (FP7-REGIONS-2009, EFI, 2010-2012)
- **Visions of Land Use Transitions in Europe (Volante)** (FP7-ENV-2010, EFI, 2010-2015), WP lead





in-kind projects by core partners

- Impacts of climate change on forest sustainability in the Czech Republic and CEE (CULS Prague)
- Efficient use of environmental, economic and social potential of forests in CEE (NFC Zvolen)
- Economic and policy analysis of forest ownership in CEE (USV Suceava)
- Improving knowledge on forest biodiversity in CEE (USV Suceava)
- Centre of Excellence: Adaptive forest ecosystems (TUZVO)
- The analysis of the impact of stand based rotation age on the forest management (EMU Tartu)





Educational activities

- ERASMUS INNO-NATOUR (Innovation in Nature Based Tourism Services)
- ERASMUS START-RUBIZ (Starting new enterprise in rural context)
- MSc students from European Forestry MSc, BOKU and FOPER
- capacity building activity on forest genetics in CEE planned for 2011 (with BFW Vienna)



Summary



- EFICEEC - a facilitator
- Science-policy transfer
- providing communication channels
- High-level lobbying
- EFICEEC - a gate to the region
- Institutions
- Researchers
- Data and information
- EFICEEC – a network
- Mutual benefits
- Responsibility





Thank you for your attention

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Where we started from...

